

Serial No. 09/916,415
Atty. Doc. No. A34482PCT-USA(071308.0207)
(1999P03046US01)

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1 & 6 and canceled claims 2 & 7. Thus, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to the objection to Claim 4:

Applicants have amended Claim 4 to comply with requirements of 37 CFR 1.75(c). Claim 4 now properly depends on Claim 1.

Response to rejections under Section 103:

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are unpatentable over Mohammed et al. in view of Horstmann et al.

The Examiner argues that the *poll packets* disclosed in Mohammed are *dummy data*. In column 10 lines 10 et seq., and in Fig.3 Mohammed discusses *commands* and *poll packets*, which require a response (see Fig. 3). Those skilled in the art understand a *command* as something the addressee device is supposed to execute, and a *poll packet* as a data structure for acquiring current values of inputs, output, registers etc. from the addressee device. Therefore, both *command* and *poll packet* cannot be regarded to be transmitted for the sole purpose of maintaining the transmission channels, as recited in the amended claims. The limitation is further supported in the specification as filed at page 4 paragraph [0006], at pages 7-8 paragraph [0012], and at pages 9-10 paragraph [0015], last sentence, where the only purpose of the *dummy data* is disclosed.

Claims 2 & 6 have been canceled, and claims 3, 4 & 8, 9 are claims dependent from currently amended claims 1 & 6 respectively. As the latter are believed to be patentable from the Applicants' point of view (as stated in the previous section), this is also true for claims 3, 4, 8, and 9 depending from those currently amended independent claims.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection.

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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d) for total independent claims in excess of 3, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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